(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the labourers engaged in construction work for Commonwealth Games 2010 are not getting minimum wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken any action in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bondage involves loss of freedom. It has no connection with payment of minimum wages, which is ensured in respect of scheduled employments by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(c) and (d) It is not a fact that the workers engaged in various construction projects for Commonwealth Games are paid less than the minimum wages.

Inspecting Officers keep a close watch on the payment of minimum wages, condition of work and violation of labour laws at construction sites during their course of inspection. If any violations are noticed, necessary legal action is taken under the Acts/Labour Laws.

Priority to local people for non-technical works

†2253. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions are issued regarding category of works provided to the local resident in the States and to the people coming from other States for work;

(b) whether there has been any talk between the Central Government and States to give priority to the local people in non-technical works; and

(c) the details of Central schemes besides NREGS, proposed to provide work to the local people in the backward States and to what extent they have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment have not issued any such instructions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes besides NREGS. Some of the important ones are 'Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)', 'Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)', 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)'. Implementation of these schemes in States including the backward States, has not only been helpful in providing employment to local people but also in improving overall development at local levels.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.